



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

March 24, 2017

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No.3
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Extending the Dispersing Authority for the California Health Facilities Financing Authority Grant Funds

Dear Chairman Pan:

The County of San Bernardino is writing in support of extending the dispersing authority for the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) grant funds. The County of San Bernardino was awarded \$10,636,185.00 in Investment in Mental Health Wellness (IMHW) Act of 2013 funding by CHFFA. The grant funds were awarded for the design and construction of four (4) Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) facilities and two (2) Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) in order to expand the crisis continuum of care in San Bernardino County. The grant also includes funding for crisis mobilization support vehicles.

The County of San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) has made considerable progress in the execution of these projects, however there are some challenges to readiness and project completion. The grant specifies that projects need to be feasible, sustainable, and ready within nine months of the final grant allocation. For ground-up constructions, nine months is an impossible task due to Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Ground-up construction projects require additional time allowances to ensure adequate time to acquire property, design and construct buildings, and obtain necessary licensure and certifications. The normal time frame to construct a new ground-up facility using the Design – Bid – Build Procurement Method (DBM) is about 905 calendar days, roughly 2.48 years.

Furthermore, unforeseen delays such as unknown above and underground obstacles, weather delays, and viable property acquisition present added challenges to completing a ground-up project within the regulatory nine month time period. NIMBY issues and zoning concerns also create additional challenges to project readiness and completion.

The County is dedicated to the construction and development of the CRT and CSU facilities in order to provide the essential additional crisis services to residents in our county. The approval of the request to extend the dispersing authority will provide the County the time necessary to complete construction, obtain appropriate licensure and certification, and begin providing the much needed services to our communities.

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For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports extending the dispersing authority for the CHFFA grant funds. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lovingood", enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Robert Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors